one hostel each in North and South Campuses of the University at .estimated cost of Rs. 313.00 lakhs and Rs. 281.00 lakhs respectively has been undertaken by the University with the funds made available by the North Eastern Council. Both these hostels have been completed and admissions of students in these hostels made. As regards utilization of funds, the University has informed that expenditure of Rs. 280.66 lakhs and Rs. 278.20 lakhs has so far been incurred on construction^ hostels in North and South Campuses respectively. The actual cost of the project will, however, be known after the final bills have been received from the executing agencies.

Child prostitution

3205. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether nearly two million children are forced into prostitution every year, even fifty five years after independence as reported in the Statesmen of August 12,2002;

(b) if so, whether Government have caused a probe into the affairs and circumstances, in which children are abused, exploited and sold, to be driven into prostitution; if so, with what results; and

(c) whether Government have prepared any comprehensive programme or plan of action, to effectively curb and prevent the social menace, affecting our children, the future of the nation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) and (b) No, Sir. However studies have shown that nearly 15% of the women in prostitution are less than 15 year of age. Government has launched a survey in 2002 to determine the approximate number.

(b) Government has formulated a National Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking and Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Women and Children in 1998 with the objective to mainstream and reintegrate women and child victims of prostitution in society through strategies that cover prevention, enforcement, rescue and rehabilitation.

A number of schemes/programmes for the rescue, rehabilitation of women and child victims of prostitution are under implementation by the

Central/State Governments. The Government has an extensive network of Short Stay Homes and Juvenile Homes for protection and rehabilitation of the victims. Government has also launched a new scheme known as 'Swadhar* for providing shelter, food, clothing, health care, pschyco-social counselling, vocational training and helpline services for rescued victims of commercial sexual exploitation.

Delay in grant for JRF

3206. SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that UGC has delayed in sanctioning grants to Junior Research Fellowship (Foreign Nationals Engineering and Technology and National Education Testing Qualified) during the year 2002-2003;

(b) whether the delay in sanctioning such grants is causing serious hardships for the scholars in carrying out the research work smoothly; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) to (c) According to the information furnished by the University Grants Commission (UGC), the UGC releases Junior Research Fellowship (JRF) grants to universities/colleges/institutes after the receipt of the Joining Report and the Eligibility Certificate duly signed and forwarded by the competent authority. Next instalment of grant is released after the receipt of Utilization Certificate/Statement of Expenditure of the full previous grants. Since some of the universities did not submit the Utilization Certificate, the grant to such universities was not released by the UGC. The universities have been requested by the UGC to submit the Utilization Certificates to enable it to release further instalment of grant.

Sati incidents

3207. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:
SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Sati incidents that took place in the country since 1996, year-wise and State-wise;